SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 6 JUNE 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ZS-SOTA NEWS

TWO YOUTH SPRINTS IN NEXT WEEK

and

THE IARU CONTINUES WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2023 PREPARATIONS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Percy Melville, ZS4RA went silent on Sunday 22 May 2021. Percy enjoyed satellite communication and often spoke to the cosmonauts aboard the MIR space station.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Minnie, ZS4RB, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

ZS-SOTA NEWS

Congratulations to Adele Tyler, ZS5APT who on Sunday 30 May activated ZS/KN-451 to get her 1000 SOTA points and achieve SOTA Goat status. Well done, Adele!

On Tuesday 1 June 2021, the ZS-SOTA scoring system was updated by SOTA MT. The ZS-SOTA Team thank Simon Melhuish for his assistance. Please visit www.sotadata.org.uk/en and under Summits select the ZS Association to see the changes. If you have a SOTA app on your phone, please do a database update.

BAHRAIN AND KYRGYZSTAN JOIN THE IARU

The IARU member-societies have voted to admit the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society (BARS) and the Amateur Radio Union of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARUKR) to membership. BARS was founded on 23 July 2020; as of September, there were 15 members out of a total of 88 licensed radio amateurs in the Kingdom. ARUKR was founded on 25 October 2013 and as of October 2019 all 110 licensed amateurs in the country were members.

CHANGE TO THE QSY RULE FOR SPRINTS

The QSY Rule for Sprints has been updated following the ZS3 Sprint. The 2021 Blue Book has been updated to Version 1.5 on 31 May 2021.

THE HAMMIES SPRINT ON 13 JUNE

The Hammies Sprint is a fun activity to promote contacts between Hammies and radio amateurs in Southern African countries with an emphasis on ZU stations and runs from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC (16:00 to 17:00 CAT) on Sunday 13 June 2021. The exchange is RS and provincial abbreviation, DX for all stations outside South Africa and the QSY rules for Sprints apply. It is a phone contest on the 40-metre band.

QSOs with stations in the same ZS region are worth 1 point and QSOs with stations in other ZS regions or DX stations are worth 2 points. QSOs with the Hammies ARC, ZS2ZU, ZS3ZU, ZS4ZU, ZS5ZU, ZS6ZU or any other Hammies ARC that may be registered at the time are worth 5 points. QSOs with any ZU station are worth 3 points and QSOs between ZU stations are worth 5 points. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format shall be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Friday 18 June 2021 and sent by e-mail to chairman@zs6zu.org.za or zr6dx@iafrica.com

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THE SARL YOUTH SPRINT ON 16 JUNE

This is a fun activity to celebrate the Youth and to promote contacts between young radio amateurs in Southern African countries. Call "CQ Youth Sprint!" The first leg takes place from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC (14:00 to 15:00 CAT) on Wednesday 16 June 2021. The exchange is a RS(T) report and the operator's age and the QSY rules for Sprints apply.

It is a CW and phone sprint on the 40-metre band. QSOs between stations in the age group 26 and younger are worth 5 points while QSOs between stations in the under 26 group and over 26 group is worth 2 points. QSOs between stations in the age group 27 and older are worth 1 point. Logs in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Monday 21 June 2021 by e-mail to zs3vdk@webmail.co.za. The age of the operator must be shown on the summary sheet.

THE IARU CONTINUES WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2023 PREPARATIONS

IARU Region 1 Spectrum Affairs Chair Barry Lewis, G4SJH reports that efforts continue in defending the interests of amateur radio during preparations by CEPT, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) sponsors the WRC.

Meeting on 21 May, the IARU worked with CEPT regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) at the third meeting of the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG). The CPG is the parent group in CEPT that oversees the development of the CEPT Briefs for each WRC-23 agenda item and reviews the progress of individual project teams under the CPG umbrella.

IARU put forward the agreed preliminary IARU positions for agenda items that could affect amateur radio. IARU's overall objective is to safeguard the allocations to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services in the co- and adjacent-frequency bands within the scope of each agenda item. CEPT Briefs include a specific section in which the views of all the recognized international and regional organizations can be placed and IARU's views are now in this section of the draft briefs for each agenda item of interest.

The meeting also heard presentations from other Region 1 RTOs, as well as organizations from Region's 2 and 3 about their preparations. These presentations and the CEPT meeting document drafts are available via the CEPT website. The IARU Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee (SRLC) continues to be active in all the CEPT project teams dealing with the WRC preparation.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently two sunspot regions visible and minor C-class solar flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 30 m bands will at sunrise and especially during the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

13 June – the Hammies Sprint

14 - West Rand meeting

15 - PEARS and Border ARC meetings

16 June – Youth Day and the SARL Youth Sprint

17 June – World QRP Day

19 June – the SARL 40 m Grid Square Sprint

19 and 20 June – the All Asian CW Contest

20 June – Father's Day

21 to 25 June – the SARL Top Band QSO party

26 to 27 June – the ARRL Field Day

1 July – Registration for the October RAE opens

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

Congratulations to Adele Tyler, ZS5APT who on Sunday 30 May activated ZS/KN-451 to get her 1000 SOTA points and achieve SOTA Goat status. Well done, Adele!

On Tuesday 1 June 2021, the ZS-SOTA scoring system was updated by SOTA MT. Update the database of your SOTA app.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled and edited by Dennis Green, ZR6BP and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.